

IN DAILY NEWS

# U.S. CASH SEEN IN CUBA RANSOM

## Hint U.S. Digs Down For Cuba Ransom \$\$

CPYRGHT

Washington, Oct. 9 (NEWS Bureau).—Speculation mounted here tonight that the U. S. government will supply a large chunk of the ransom for the Cuban Bay of Pigs prisoners through the Central Intelligence Agency or the President's emergency fund.

Rumors circulated among diplomatic sources that the ransom deal calls for \$15 million in cash and \$40 million worth of food and medicine. But reliable sources described these figures as "awfully high."

(A Reuters dispatch from Havana, however, reported that \$17 million in cash has already been deposited in Canada in favor of the Cuban National Bank. The balance of the payment was expected to be in medicine.)

The government declined comment on the grounds that the deal was a private one being worked out in Havana between New York attorney James B. Donovan, on behalf of the Cuban Families Committee, and Cuban Premier Castro.

### "Sympathetic Attitude"

The State Department said at noon, however, that no agreement had been reached up to that time. A spokesman said the negotiations were still continuing and that the department was taking a "sympathetic attitude" toward them.

Privately, officials were optimistic that release of the prisoners was imminent. But they still clammed up on what possible role the government was playing.

Informed sources said families and friends of the Bay of Pigs prisoners had been able to pledge only \$200,000 at most toward the ransom. The clear implication was that the U. S. government was supplying most or all of the rest.

The most obvious source of funds would be the CIA, which is given an undisclosed sum for clandestine operations.

Another source of cash would be the President's emergency fund. Officials said that this amounts to about \$100 million.

### Donovan Optimistic, But Meeting Is Delayed

Havana, Oct. 9 (Reuters).—New York lawyer James Donovan announced today he will confer tomorrow with Premier Castro over the release of the 1,112 prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs invasion. Donovan said he was "highly optimistic."